

Connecticut Insurance and Financial Services Cluster

Aetna
Bank of America
Catlin Insurance
ConnectiCare
The Hartford Financial
Services Group
Hartford Steam Boiler
Inspection & Insurance
Company/Munich RE

**Statement on Behalf of
Connecticut's Insurance and Financial Services Cluster
Regarding
*House Bill 5460: AAC Captive Audience Meetings***

Labor & Public Employees Committee
February 10, 2011

ING Group
InSource, LLC/ Virtusa
Insurity/Lexis Nexis
KPMG

The Connecticut Insurance & Financial Services [IFS] Cluster, funded by its members, is committed to strengthening and advancing Connecticut's sixth largest industry sector which currently provides jobs for over 115,000 people and includes over 6,000 establishments within Connecticut.

MassMutual Financial
Group
MetroHartford Alliance
NewAlliance Bank
Northeast Utilities
People's United Bank

As this vital and historic industry in Connecticut continues its recovery, business executives need confidence that Connecticut's legislative climate will remain steadfast and predictable in supporting business growth. Additionally, as the global recovery continues, the importance of an 'open for business' economic message will ensure that Connecticut can still compete for new jobs, capital and business.

The Phoenix Companies
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Prudential Retirement

House Bill 5460 significantly undermines the essence of a 'pro-growth' economic agenda particularly to our resident employers by banning 'political' topics to be discussed at 'all employees' meetings.

Robinson & Cole, LLP
Savings Bank Life
Insurance/Vantis Life
Sovereign Bank
TD Bank
Travelers Companies

The bill challenges the very core of the employer- employee relationship by barring open communication. The wide definition of 'political' topics could restrict information on the current political climate, world events, developments at the State Capitol that could affect jobs, charitable giving or other community activities. Other stoppages could include informational updates on laws such as the Dodd-Frank Act which have direct correlation to jobs in Connecticut.

UnitedHealth Group
United Illuminating
Webster Bank
XL Group plc

The IFS sector has made employer-employee communications a priority in its business operations. For example, the industry has instituted in-house communication vehicles, surveys and policies to foster communication and transparency to and from employer to employee.

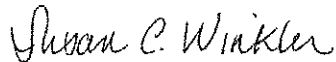
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Further protections are in place under the *National Labor Relations Act* which provides for strict compliance that “guarantees the employer’s right to express an opinion about unionization as long as the employer does not also threaten reprisal or promise a benefit.”

With the federal law and protections in place, House Bill 5460 is redundant and anything but pro-growth. More importantly, it’s anti-job retention and anti-growth and sends the wrong message to our resident IFS businesses, employees, and those seeking a new place of business that Connecticut is ‘not open for business’.

As partners in the Connecticut economy, let’s work together in creating a predictable, healthy economic climate, not a harmful one. I ask that you reject House Bill 5460.



Susan C. Winkler
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Connecticut Insurance & Financial Services Cluster

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